WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1	1. A method for selecting a resource from a plurality of potential		
2	resources for providing a service in response to a service request, the method comprising the		
3	steps of:		
4	determining aging services by estimating which of the potential services are		
5	kely to be disconnected;		
6	disconnecting one of the aging services from its associated resource; and		
7	using the disconnected resource for providing the service in the service		
8	request.		
1	2. The method of claim 1, wherein the aging service selected to be		
2	disconnected is an oldest service for which the potential disconnect is most likely to occur.		
1	3. The method of claim 2, wherein the oldest service is determined by		
2	non-responsiveness to a transmitted query.		
1	4. The method of claim 2, wherein the service request is generated in		
2	accordance with an Internet Group Management Protocol.		
1	5. The method of claim 4, wherein the oldest service is determined by		
2	non-responsiveness to a General Query.		
1	6. The method of claim 4, wherein the oldest service is determined by		
2	non-responsiveness to Group Specific Query.		
1	7. The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is a virtual circuit.		
1	8. The method of claim 1, wherein the resource is bandwidth.		
1 .	9. A method for selecting a resource from a plurality of potential		
2	resources for providing a service in response to a service request, the method comprising the		
3	steps of:		
4	determining aging services by estimating which of the potential services are		
5	likely to be disconnected;		

6	if one of the aging resources is used for providing the service in the s	ervice	
7	request, stopping the aging of the resource and using it for providing the service in the service		
8	request; and		
9	if none of the aging resources are used for providing the service in th	e service	
0	request,		
11.	disconnecting one of the aging services from its associated re-	source,	
2	and		
13	using the disconnected resource for providing the service in the	ie service	
4	request.		